816. m. 11
36
27
24

Reaſons Humbly Offered, for Confirming the Royal-*African*-Company's Charter by Parliament, to ſuch Perſons who are willing to become Adventurers in that Trade.

1*ſt*. THAT the Beſt Method, ſo as to Carry on that Trade for the Honour of the Government, Profit to the Kingdom, and Safety to the Merchant, is by an Incorporated Company in a Joynt-Stock Excluſive.

2*d*. That the Preſent Company Embarked in it, upon the Invitation and Encouragement of King *Charles* the Second, and his Privy Council, as well as the Perſwaſion of many other Perſons of Quality, and that, when it was fallen under ſuch a Decay, that it was Apprehended by all People, to be in Danger of being Totally Loſt.

3*d*. That as there is no preſerving that Trade, but under the Protection of Forts and Caſtles, ſo they would never have been Erected or Maintained, had there not been an Incorporated Company, having a Joynt-Stock Excluſive; nor could any thing leſs than the ſecurity enjoyed by Forts and Caſtles, and the Company's Property in them, Encourage Factors, and Servants to Reſide there, or the Company to Lodge their Eſtates in the Country, both which would otherwiſe be Subject to the Treachery, and Rapine of the Natives.

4*th*. That 'tis only by the means of the Forts and Caſtles, and the Trade being in one, and the ſame Intereſt, that both Natives and Engliſh can be Reſtrained, to a due Obſervation of the Rules and Meaſures of Humanity, Truth and Juſtice; It is not Probable, that they who come ſeldom, and it may be but once in thoſe Parts, and who have none Reſiding upon the Place, to be Anſwerable for their Behaviour, ſhould Comport themſelves with that Temper and Juſtice, that the Servants of the Company are obliged to do; and there is no preſerving a Power over, or an Intereſt in the Natives, without being able, and always Provided to Aſſiſt thoſe Princes, in whoſe Territories our Traffick Lyes with Money, Arms and Ammunition, to Support them, againſt thoſe with whom they are in War, without which they would be obliged to the Aid and Aſſiſtance of other *Europeans*, and thereby come under a Dependance upon them.

5*th*. That there are no Kings of thoſe Territories upon the Coaſt of *Africa*, who can ſecure unto the Merchants any Large and Safe Trade, nor any Cities or Great Towns, where by the ſetling of Conſulls, we may, as is practiſed in other Parts of the World, drive a Safe Commerce, for the Sale of our Commodities, and for the Purchaſe of theirs; but the Chief Trade to *Africa*, is either managed at the Company's Forts and Caſtles, or elſe by ſending ſmall Veſſels to the Remoter Parts and Rivers.

6*th*. That it is by means of Forts and Caſtles, that other Nations have ſecured a Trade on that Coaſt, and there is no Abridging them in the Vent of their Goods, and Encreaſe of their Power, but by keeping up to, or exceeding them, in the Number of Settlements, and providing them conſtantly with Proper Agents, Officers, Artificers, Soldiers, Amunition, Stores, and a good Stock of Vendible Commodities.

7*th*. That the certain great Charge of Building, Repairing, and Maintaining of Forts, Caſtles, and Settlements on the Coaſt, keeping up Friendſhips, and Agreements with the Kings, and Petty Princes, and Encouraging ſuitable Agents, Officers and Servants, to Reſide in thoſe Parts, cannot be anſwered to the Adventurers, or the Nation, by any other means, than by the Settlement of the Trade, under one Direction for the Sale of Goods; whereby the Natives may be obliged, to give a Reaſonable Advance for our Commodities, and part with their Blacks, and Returns at moderate Prices.

8*th*, That the Diſſolving the Preſent Company, would give the Native Princes on the Coaſt, a Pretence of Departing from all Agreements, Contracts, and Alliances made with them, and may be the occaſion of many Differences, and Obſtructions in the Trade, which the new Agents, would not be able to Reconcile, without Great Expence, and loſs of Time.

9*th*. That it is Obſervable, that thoſe Pleaders for an open Trade, only ſeek a Liberty for themſelves to Trade, but have propoſed no Security of Advantage, either to the Nation or Plantations, or for Preſervation of the Trade on the Coaſt.

10*th*. That it is Demonſtrable, that a Joynt-Stock-Company are both Abler, and will find it their Intereſt, to Export much more Goods, than can at any Certainty be done by open Traders, and Import alſo for a Conſtancy more Negroes into the Plantations.

11*th*. That the Settling the Trade to *Africa*, under any other Method than that of a Joynt-Stock, will reduce it into few Hands, and will exclude many from all Benefit thereby, who under the Eſtabliſhment of a Joynt-Stock, may pertake of a Share in it, and of the Gain, and Profit ariſing from it, Perſons of all Qualities, Sexes, and Ages, are Capable of being Adventurers in a Joynt-Stock; but in the Method

of

of an open Trade, it muſt immediately lapſe into a few Hands, and to thoſe who are the moſt Wealthy and Opulent, and whoſe alone Province is Traffick and Commerce.

12*th.* That as what is propoſed by the following Scheme, is for the mutual Advantage of all Perſons whatſoever, who are willing to become Adventurers in that Trade, and in ſuch manner, as that it may be preſerved, and effectually carried on, to the Honour of the Nation, the Proſperity of the Plantations, and the Promoting and Encreaſe, of the Wealth of the Kingdom.

So it is hoped, that what is Calculated for thoſe Good Ends, will meet with all ſuitable Encouragement and Succeſs.

The Scheme for the Effectual Support, and Carrying on the Trade to *Africa.*

1*ſt.* THAT for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, and Conditions hereafter mention'd, a Book be opened for taking the Voluntary Subſcriptions of all Perſons, for any Sum not leſs than Fifty Pounds each.

2*d.* That the Royal *African-Company*, their Adventurers, Creditors, and the Subſcribers be united, and be one Entire Company, on the Terms hereafter mention'd.

3*d.* That the Company's Stock or Shares, the Intereſt of each Adventurer, be computed at Five Pounds *per* Share, each Perſon paying the Money due upon former Calls.

4*th.* That the Sundry Perſons, Creditors of the ſaid Company, their reſpective Debts be computed at the Principle and Intereſt, to *Chriſtmas* 1710, of ſuch Debts as carry Intereſt.

5*th.* That the ſaid Company's Forts, Settlements, and Eſtate in that Trade, both Quick and Dead-Stock, be adjuſted at a Valuation.

6*th.* That the Valuation of their Forts, and Settlements, on the Coaſt of *Africa*, commonly called their Dead-Stock, be adjuſted and agreed, at One Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds certain.

7*th.* That the Valuation of the other part of their Eſtate, called their Quick-Stock, be valued and adjuſted, by an equal Number of Perſons choſe for the Company, and for the Subſcribers; And that in Caſe the ſaid Valuation be not adjuſted and agreed on, by the ſaid Parties in Sixty Days after their ſaid Election, then the Lord High Treaſurer, or Lords Commiſſioners of the Treaſury for the time being, be deſired to become Arbitrator, or Arbitrators, whoſe Arbitration ſhall be Definitive and Binding to all Perſons.

8*th.* That the produce of the ſaid Quick and Dead-Stock ſo valued, ſhall be the Eſtate and Stock of the Company, and their Creditors in equal Proportions, according to the foregoing Computation put upon the Shares and Debts, and the ſeveral Debts be made, and become Stock, according to their Proportion thereof, and the Shares of the reſpective Adventurers, to be reduced accordingly to their Proportion.

9*th.* That the ſeveral Subſcribers Subſcriptions, be added to the Stock, valued as aforeſaid.

10*th.* That Application be made for an Act of Parliament, to confirm the Company's Charter, and to conſtitute and confirm their ſaid Debts, Shares and Subſcription, to be the Stock of the ſaid Company, on the foot of the ſaid Computation, Valuation, and Subſcription.

11*th.* That the Subſcription Book lie open, for all Perſons to Subſcribe to ſuch time, as the Parliament ſhall Appoint.

12*th.* That the Trade may be carried on to the utmoſt Extent, and the Plantations effectually ſupplied with Negroes, the Company may be obliged in the ſaid Act, to Export Annually to the Coaſt of *Africa*, in Goods and Merchandizes, to the Value of One Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling.

Reaſons Humbly Offered for Confirming the *Royal-African* Company's Charter by Parliament, to ſuch Perſons who are willing to become Adventurers in that Trade.